

Labour Market Information Monthly

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SCHOOL-AGE POPULATION LIVING IN LOW-INCOME CIRCUMSTANCES EDUCATION INDICATORS IN CANADA: FACT SHEET

Family income can influence various developmental outcomes, academic results, and life transitions. For example, living in low-income circumstances may impede the school readiness of preschool children, reduce the likelihood of success in educational achievement throughout the educational trajectory, reduce the ability to afford postsecondary education, and increase the likelihood of living in low-income circumstances as an adult. Information on the school-age population living in low-income circumstances provides the basis for appropriate policies and programs that target children who are most in need.

This fact sheet provides information about the proportion of the school-age population - defined in this fact sheet as children and youth aged 5 to 24 - living in low-income circumstances, including the duration of low-income periods, using data from Statistics Canada's Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID). The percentage of children in low-income circumstances is calculated based on Statistics Canada's low-income cutoffs (LICOs), using data on family income after government benefits are received and after federal and provincial/territorial taxes are paid.

Who is at risk for low income?

In 2007, the most recent data year available, 11% of the population aged 5 to 24 in Canada lived in low-income circumstances, compared to 15% in 2003. Historically, children living in single-parent families (also referred to as lone-parent families) have been more likely to live in low-income situations. Although the proportion of children from single-parent families who live in low-income situations has decreased substantially since 2003, in 2007, these children were still almost three times as likely (17%) to live in low-income circumstances as children living in two-parent families (6%).

Furthermore, longitudinal data from SLID indicate that low income is a more persistent circumstance for children from lone-parent families. More than one quarter (27%) of children from lone-parent families lived in low-income situations for more than one year, whereas only 11% of children from two-parent families did so.

Factors that can affect the likelihood of living in low-income circumstances are varied and complex, and include the following: the number of income earners in the family; their skills and years of work experience; the characteristics of their employment (e.g., full- or part-time employment, level of remuneration, job stability); regional economic conditions; and federal and provincial/territorial government income and other support programs. Data from the latest census, in 2006, indicate that 94% of children from two-parent families had at least one parent working full time, compared to 67% of children in single-parent families.

The incidence of low income is highest among those who do not live with their parents, with a third (33%) of these individuals facing a low-income situation in 2007, according to the low-income cut-off criteria. However, the interpretation of income data for this group is complex. Those living without their parents are more likely to be young adults. The latest census indicates that while 1% and 7%, respectively, of children aged 5 to 14 and 15 to 19 do not live with any parent, this percentage is 41% for 20 to 24 year-olds. Young adults can have a variety of living arrangements, and these can change over time, thereby affecting income even over a short period of time. Young adults not living with their parents may face a higher incidence of low income, in some cases on a temporary basis, as they are participating in the labour market with little experience and/or may

This Month

- School-age Population Living in Low-Income Circumstances
- Key Labour Force Statistics
- The Industry Report

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be going to school either full time or part time. A better understanding of these factors, and of others, including how young adults have fared in the economic conditions of the first decade of the 2000s, would also help to interpret the low-income situation of young adults.

Change in low-income rates

Over the last two decades, there has been greater fluctuation in the incidence of low income among children in single-parent families than among children from two-parent families. Between 1990 and 1995, a time of recession and slow economic recovery, the proportions of children in low income rose for both family types, but then decreased with the labour-market recovery and increased government spending in the late 1990s. In both time periods, the change in the incidence of low income was more pronounced for children in single-parent families. Since 2003, the largest decline in low-income rates has occurred for children in single-parent families. In 2007, the rate for this group was 10 percentage points lower than the 27% observed in 2003. Furthermore, the incidence of low income among children from lone-parent families in 2007 (17%) was almost half of what it was in 1990 (32%), the end of a period of growth and the start of an economic slowdown. In contrast, the percentage of children from two-parent families living in low income has remained fairly stable since 2003.

Provinces

Low-income rates among children from families with two parents varied from 1% to 7% across the provinces in 2007, and were half or less than half of the Canadian average (i.e., no more than 3%) in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. However, differences in low-income rates among children from lone-parent families in these provinces were greater.

In all provinces, children from lone-parent families faced a higher likelihood of low income than children from two-parent families. The rates of low income among children with one parent varied from 9% in Prince Edward Island to 26% in British Columbia. In addition to Prince Edward Island, the incidence of low income among children living with one parent in 2007 was lower than the Canadian average in Newfoundland and Labrador (13%), Nova Scotia (13%), Quebec (14%), and Alberta (12%). Compared to 2003, the proportion of children from lone-parent families who faced low income was lower in almost every province, with the pattern of decrease since 2003 differing across the provinces. The rates of low income among children with a single parent have fallen the most in Newfoundland and Labrador (an 18-percentage-point drop between 2003 and 2007).

For more detailed information, the specific data referred to in this fact sheet, and other tables of data related to education in Canada, please see [Education Indicators in Canada: Report of the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=81-582-x&lang=eng) (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=81-582-x&lang=eng>).

The Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program (PCEIP) is an ongoing initiative of the Canadian Education Statistics Council, a partnership between Statistics Canada and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), to provide a set of statistical measures on education systems in Canada.

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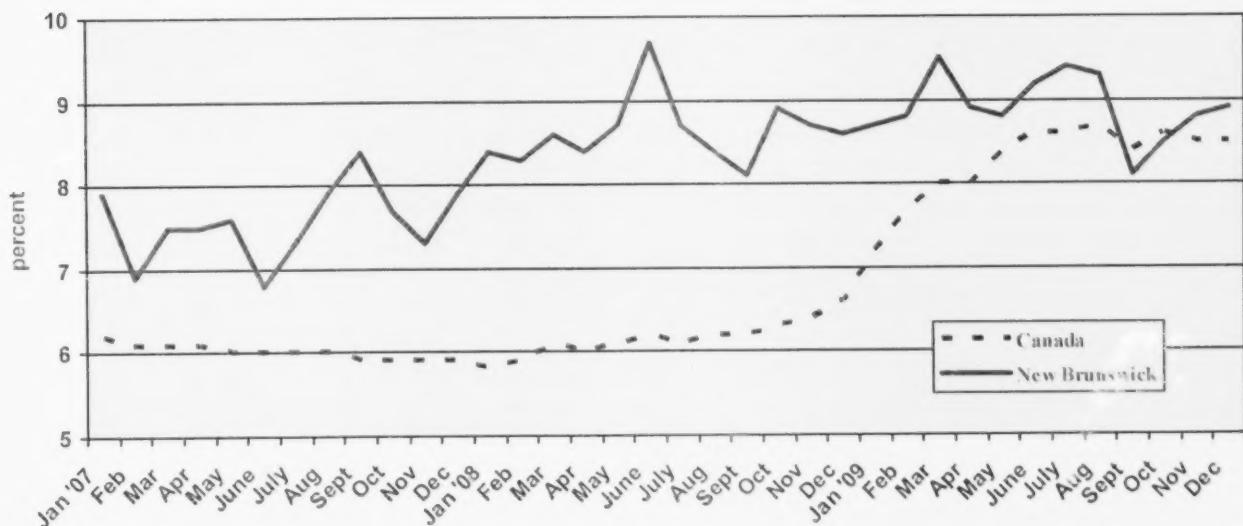
KEY LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK (Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey)

New Brunswick	YTD	December '09	November '09	December '08
Labour Force	402,100	399,900	403,300	401,000
Employed	366,400	364,200	367,800	366,600
Unemployed	35,700	35,700	35,500	34,400
Unemployment Rate	8.9%	8.9%	8.8%	8.6%
Participation Rate	64.7%	64.2%	64.8%	64.7%
Employment Rate	59.0%	58.5%	59.1%	59.2%

CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK

In December, Canada's unemployment rate was 8.5%, unchanged over last month but 1.9 percentage points higher than the same time last year. New Brunswick's rate of 8.9% was 0.1 of a percentage point higher than last month and 0.3 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year, when it stood at 8.6%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

Produced by the Labour Market Analysis Branch (LMAB) of the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training & Labour

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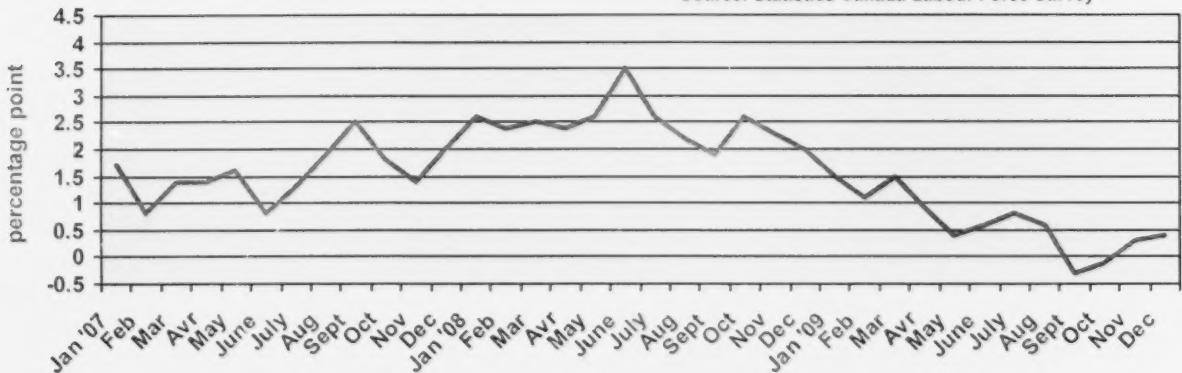
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CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK (continued)

The gap between the national and provincial rates was 0.4 of a percentage point in December.

DIFFERENCE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

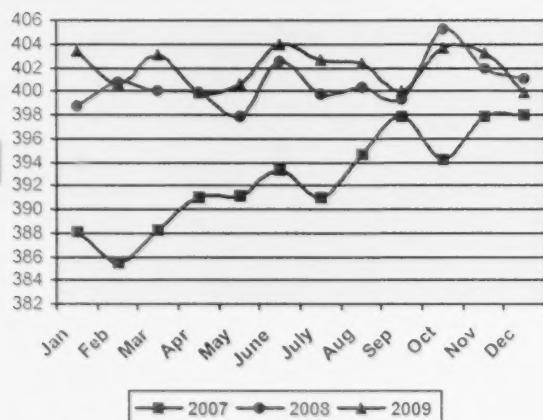


THE LABOUR FORCE

New Brunswick's labour force stood at 399,900 in December. This represented a decrease of 3,400 over last month, and a decrease of 1,200 over the same time last year.



THE SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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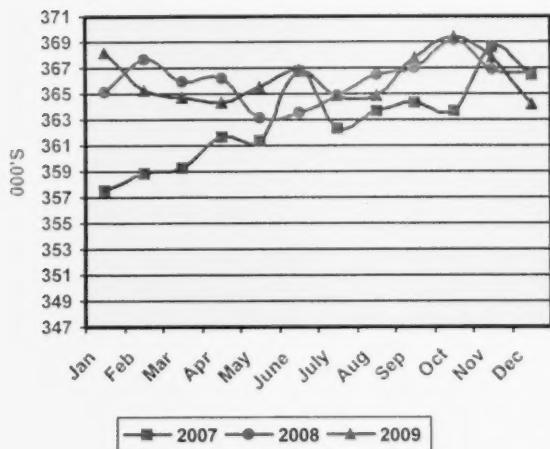
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EMPLOYMENT

There were 364,200 people working in December. This was 3,600 less than last month and 2,400 less when compared to the same period last year.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



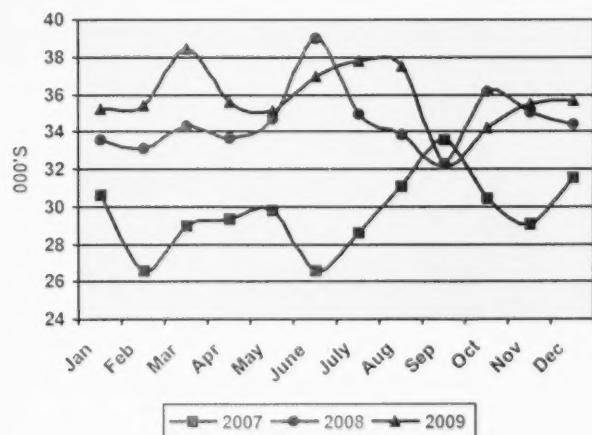
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



UNEMPLOYMENT

There were 35,700 people unemployed and seeking work in December. This is 200 more people than what was recorded last month and is 1,300 more compared to the same period last year.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

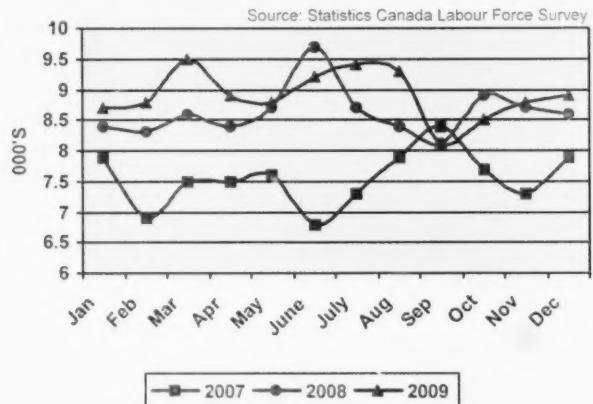
New Brunswick's unemployment rate of 8.9% in December was 0.1 of a percentage point higher than last month and was 0.3 of a percentage point higher compared to the same time last year.



THE ECONOMIC REGIONS

Statistics Canada reports labour force statistics for the economic regions as three month moving averages of actual (not seasonally adjusted) data.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NEW BRUNSWICK



December'09		Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Central	Northwest
Labour Force	73,900	112,100	94,300	73,500	43,600	
Employment	63,600	105,900	87,900	68,800	39,700	
Unemployment	10,200	6,200	6,400	4,600	3,900	
Unemployment Rate	13.8%	5.5%	6.8%	6.3%	8.9%	
Participation Rate	54.8%	66.4%	65.5%	68.8%	64.0%	

Economic Regions	YTD		December'09		December'08	
	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR
Northeast	63,600	15.3%	63,600	13.8%	62,700	16.3%
Southeast	105,600	7.5%	105,900	5.5%	107,600	5.5%
Southwest	90,400	6.2%	87,900	6.8%	88,300	6.4%
Central	67,200	7.2%	68,800	6.3%	67,000	5.6%
Northwest	39,700	10.1%	39,700	8.9%	40,000	8.7%

On a year-over-year basis (December 2009 compared to December 2008), employment increased in the Central (+1,800) and Northeast (+900) economic regions while employment decreased in the Southeast (-1,700); Southwest (-400) and Northwest (-300) regions.

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THE INDUSTRY REPORT

Employment growth on a year-over-year basis was strongest in the following sectors:*

Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas (12.6%) – Tied with the Other Services sector for top growth. In December of 2009, there were approximately 10,700 people employed in this sector. This is only the second month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was higher than the equivalent month of the previous year (the thirteen previous months were lower). Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 11 of those months (9 happened in the first 9 months of this period). For all of 2009 (using preliminary annual average figures), employment was still 6.5% lower than what was recorded for all of 2008 (comparing year-over-year annual averages).

Other Services (12.6%) – Tied with the Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas sector for top growth. In December of 2009, there were approximately 17,000 people employed in this sector. This is the fifth consecutive month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was higher than or tied with the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 7 of those months (but six have happened in the last 8 months, suggesting this sector has turned the corner to a more positive trajectory). For all of 2009 (using preliminary annual average figures), employment was still 0.6% lower than what was recorded for all of 2008 (comparing year-over-year annual averages).

Information, culture and recreation (10.9%) – In December of 2009 there were approximately 12,200 people employed in this sector. This is the seventh consecutive month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 10 of those months (but given seven has happened in the last 7 months suggests this sector has turned the corner to a more positive trajectory).

For all of 2009 (using preliminary figures), employment was still 0.6% lower than what was recorded for all of 2008 (comparing year-over-year annual averages). For all of 2009 (using preliminary annual average figures), employment was still 1.8% lower than what was recorded for all of 2008 (comparing year-over-year annual averages).

Accommodation and Food Services (16.0%) – In December of 2009 there were approximately 25,100 people employed in this sector. This is only the fourth consecutive month in a row where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 10 of those months (6 happening during the first 8 months of this period). For all of 2009 (using preliminary annual average figures), employment was still 2.0% lower than what was recorded for all of 2008 (comparing year-over-year annual averages).

Includes the top three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year-over-year) increase in employment.



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THE INDUSTRY REPORT (continued)

*Employment was weaker on a year-over-year basis in the following sectors**:*

Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (-10.9%) – In December of 2009 there were approximately 15,500 people employed in this sector. This is only the third consecutive month in a row that this sector has experienced a year-over-year decline in employment. Over the last 24 months this sector has recorded year-over-year employment gains 14 times (but 9 came in the first 10 months of this period). For all of 2009 (using preliminary annual average figures), employment was 0.5% lower than what was recorded for all of 2008 (comparing year-over-year annual averages).

Agriculture (-9.3%) – In December of 2009 there were approximately 6,800 people employed in this sector. This is only the first month (this year) where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 16 of those months. For all of 2009 (using preliminary annual average figures), employment was a whopping 21.3% higher than what was recorded for all of 2008 (comparing year-over-year annual averages), other than this month, in terms of employment growth it was a stellar year for this sector.

Business, Building and Other Support Services (-8.6%) – In December of 2009 there were approximately 19,200 people employed in this sector. This is forth month in the last 5 where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 10 of those months. For all of 2009 (using preliminary figures), employment is 2.7% higher than what was recorded for all of 2008 (comparing year-over-year annual averages).

** Includes the bottom three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year-over-year) decrease in employment

